

February 19, 1993 LB 83

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...as on purpose, and when it comes to dealing with those who own this instrumentality, we are being told by the NRA that we cannot as a Legislature make adults responsible for the rational handling and storing of one of these implements of death. I still don't see Senator Schellpeper. I don't have a gun. I'm not going to shoot. But I agree with what Senator Robinson said and the way he said it. Would we want our own...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...children or grandchildren around that loaded gun?

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Next, Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I, too, rise in support of pulling this bill out of committee. We do have a responsibility to protect our children. It would be negligent if we are not looking at policies that ensure the welfare and safety of all of our children from unnecessary harm, from preventable death. Perhaps this bill is not in the form that it's the best policy, but we need to have this dialogue now. Our children should not have to wait another year to make sure that they are safe. We need to talk about the fact that guns are more likely to be used for suicide, accidental death than protection against intruders, 47 times more likely to be used, that we need to talk about the fact that five children in the last 11 months, five children in Nebraska have died as a result of accidental shootings of firearms. We need to talk about the fact that it is the fourth leading cause of accidental deaths in children and that 31 percent of the accidental deaths caused by firearms could have been prevented by safety mechanisms on the guns, that all of the children, all of the children under age six who have died from accidental deaths from firearms could have been prevented had we required a safety device on that firearm. We need to have this dialogue now and I urge that you support pulling this legislation out of committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Next, Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I just